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### **Delaware County braces for “Jonas” blizzard** *County Council briefs residents on snow storm preparations*

Delaware County Council met with Emergency Services staff and key department heads at the county’s Emergency Operations Center on Jan. 22 to discuss the county's plans regarding the expected snow storm.

Following the meeting Chairman Mario Civera Jr. signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the county in preparation for the storm, which goes into effect immediately. In addition, he said that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated at 6 p.m. Friday.

Council members held a press conference to update the media and the public on the preparations being made.

“Our goal is to be proactive and keep our residents informed and updated,” said Chairman Civera. “As this storms hits our area our goal is to ensure our county has the resources it needs to keep our residents safe and warm and to address issues that might impact people, from power outages and road closures to downed trees.”

During the press conference Chairman Civera detailed some of the preparations and key messages for residents:

- Increased staff levels for all shifts at the 911 Center starting at 6 p.m. Friday until Monday Morning. Representatives from PECO, PennDOT, the Pennsylvania State Police, Comcast and emergency responders will be on standby to triage the best response to all emergencies.
- Several emergency vehicles will be on call to help stranded people. Four volunteer snowmobile teams will be on standby to help stranded motorists. They are equipped with emergency services vests and have portable radios.
- PECO and Exelon have emergency crews ready to respond to power outages.
- PennDOT reports it has enough salt for its operations.
- The National Guard is on standby to help in various capacities, such as clearing downed trees or transporting generators to large facilities such as hospitals.
- Government services that are crucial, such are Fair Acres and the Juvenile Detention Center, are making plans to ensure they are fully staffed.
- County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) is arranging to have meals delivered early, to check on at-risk residents, and to have contingencies in place so all in-home services will continue.
- The Department of Human Services is working to ensure that all homeless and vulnerable residents have food and shelter.

(more)

*(Storm prep continued)*

Council urges residents to register for Delco Alert, our emergency notification system that alerts residents of emergencies, severe weather, road closures or other emergency events. Residents can register on the county's website ([www.co.delaware.pa.us](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us)) by clicking on the Delco Alert icon. People who are registered will receive alerts by e-mail and text message.

Delaware County's website also lists various resources that assist people during a storm including help for the elderly through our Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) and help for homeless and vulnerable citizens through our Department of Human Services.

Council also reminded residents to stock up on emergency essentials such as bottled water and batteries and to be careful about the use of generators and to recognize the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. All of the county's municipalities have warming centers that can be activated if there are numbers of people without power. Residents can call 9-1-1 and they will be connected to their municipality's resources.

"The bottom line is County Council and our Emergency Services staff stands ready to help our residents get through this next storm," said Civera. "Delaware County residents are resilient. During that snowstorm of 2014, when over 700,000 people were without power across Pennsylvania, our residents stepped up and helped each other through that storm. I am proud that we live in a county where there were so many stories of good Samaritans helping each other."

Residents with an emergency are asked to call 9-1-1. For loss of power resident can call PECO at 1-800-841-4141.